

TRUE COPY
OF A
LETTER
FROM
COUNT STAREMBERGH,
TO THE
DUKE of LORRAINE,
Concerning the Present Condition of
VIENNA.



TO give you a True State of the Siege of Vienna, from the Eighth of July, that the Ottoman Army came before it, to the Eighteenth of August inclusive, take this following Letter from Count Starembergh himself, to the Duke of Lorraine, as it is really Translated from the Original Letter, Printed in High-Dutch.

Vienna, August 18. 1683.

MY LORD,

GOD be thanked, we have had once the good Fortune to hear that one of our Letters is come to your Highnesses Hands, amongst many others that have been writ to you from hence. I humbly beg that you will believe, That it is none of our Fault that you have been no oftner informed of our Affairs; so neither will we be wanting for the future to let your Highness know how it goes with us here, as often as Opportunity shall serve. And to let you see how it is with us at present, give me leave to tell you, That we have disputed every Foot of Ground with the Enemy, and that they have not gained any thing upon us, but what hath cost them very dear; having been as often vigorously repulsed, as they have attempted to Lodge themselves, with so great Loss, that they dare not thrust their Heads out of their Holes any longer, nor appear upon those Hills which they have flung up round our Counterscarp, and by which means they endeavour to surround our Ditch. And as I have formerly

formerly informed your Highness, That the Enemies had made a Descent into the Ditch of the Raveline, and blown up a part of the Wall, and theré-upon made several Assaults ; but, God be thanked, very unsuccesfully, we having beaten them out of their Works which they had made at the Foot of the Breach : But finding, that as soon as our Men were retreated, they returned again, I thought it Prudence to use some Precaution about it, and to have Mined it so deep as to reach the Point of the Raveline ; which I also did about the two Bastions they had attaqued, toward which the Enemy have not yet advanced any thing, keeping themselves still at the Foot of the Counterscarp. They made a descent on the 14th instant into the Ditch called *Leb*, lying before the *Bastion*, and the same night made another Lodgement in the Ditch, but seeing that I could not very much incommode them neither by my Musquetiers nor Cannon, they having buried themselves over Head and Ears ; I thought good to plant my Cannon against those Mountains that surrounded the Ditch, and at the same time made an attaque upon them, and drove them from thence ; but not having men enough the first time to ruine their works, I made a second atracque, and destroyed them all, and having the wind favourable for us, we burnt their Gabions and a great part of their Gallery, since which time they never durst appear on that side the *Raveline*. On the 17th. they endeavoured to spring another Mine, but with no better success then the former, for it blew up backwards, and did little or no hurt to the *Raveline*, there is now already made in the middle of the *Raveline* a very good Retrenchment with a deep Ditch : The *Bastions Leb* and *Delacour* are also doubly retrenched, and I am now busy at this very hour to make a Principal Retrenchment behind the two said *Bastions* ; so that your Highness sees there is nothing wanting in us to use all the precaution that can be expected from rational Men, for the preservation of the place, and I can assure you, to render me worthy of the Confidence your Highness, and especially his Imperial Majesty my Master, ground on my Services, I will never deliver up the Place, but with the last drop of my blood. Withal I find that our men are no ways afraid at the sight of the Turks, who are easily overcome, if attaqued with Courage, and God be thanked 40 of ours have hitherto been able to dislodge 100 of them. This day was brought to me a Janizary Prisoner, who was taken in the *Raveline*, who among other things tells me, That they lost in the last attaque 1100 men, besides many Officers of the Janizaries, and the Bashaws of *Mesopotamia*, and *Albania* ; That they begin to be in want of Provisions both of Horse and Man, which they are forced to fetch from far ; That they expect a Convoy from *Bastedo* with Ammunition, which if it cou'd be met withal by the way, or that their Forragers could be cut off, it would make them desperate. God be thanked, as to my health, 'tis in a very good Condition again, having had the Bloody Flux for eight days together.

Y O S T-S C R I P T.

The 19th of August, 1683. Since yesterday (my Lord) the Enemy have caused another Mine to be sprung in the *Raveline*, and made an Assault with about 1000 men, but our Canon and our Musquetiers did so warmly receive them, that 300 of them were killed upon the place, and forced them to content themselves to lodge upon a place called *Berm*, which I perceiving, caused a Mine to be sprung this morning, which soon dislodged them, burying most of them in the Ruines. I expect this very instant the like Regale from them, but if I can be sooner ready than they, I will cause another to be sprung to the health of your Highness.